

# Scottish Socialist VOICE



FREE/DONATION HOLYROOD ELECTION SPECIAL 2011

A SCOTTISH SOCIALIST PARTY PUBLICATION

HOLYROOD ELECTION

Scottish  
Socialist  
Party



2nd Vote  
SSP

# VOTE NO TO THE CUTS! VOTE YES FOR A FIGHTBACK! VOTE SSP

**SCOTTISH** Socialists elected to Holyrood will bring the cold breath of reality to the cosy chamber and put the battles of the outside world in front of the parliament.

With our links to workers defending pensions, communities fighting cuts and students taking action in defence of education we will bring that reality into Holyrood.

Behind all the hand wringing about apathy in politics the truth is that many of today's professional well suited politicians are as remote from people's real concerns as Martians and people know that.

Taking only a workers wage Socialists will work all out to ensure that the reality of the increasingly bitter consequences of cuts and sacking flowing from Holyrood's decisions are brought home to MSPs.

As well as supporting those fighting back Socialist MSPs would offer an alternative to bowing the knee to Westminster coalition cuts.

We would fight for a no cuts budget which defies the ConDem cuts rather than meekly putting them through.

This defiance alternative has already been



proposed by SSP councillor Jim Bollan in his council.

We would force open the Holyrood doors to make the voice of those taking direct action against the cuts such as those occupying the Hetherington building in Glasgow University heard.

Our Scottish Service Tax would raise an EXTRA £1.5 billion to stop the cuts, make over 70 per cent of Scots better off than under

the council tax, which would swept away making the rich pay their share.

Putting Scottish Socialists in Holyrood would bring the peoples' fight back outside to the heart of Scotland's political machine.

Not for us a quiet life in the shiny Holyrood building but a pledge to work all out to bring peoples' concerns and struggles into its chamber and link politics to the world outside its doors.

# MAKE THE RICH PAY!

**THE** leaders of Scotland's big four parties are "like rabbits in the headlights of the rich," says former MSP and SSP Glasgow candidate Frances Curran.

Speaking on the campaign trail at the Forge Centre in Glasgow, she said:

"In this election, all four parties are running scared of the rich and will make savage cuts in jobs and services to pay the bankers' bill and pamper the wealthy.

"The latest to bend the knee to the rich is the SNP's John Swinney, who confirms that plans to replace the unjust



Council Tax with a local income tax have been junked.

"Behind the big party shadow boxing lies a simple choice -

that either the rich pay their share or the rest of us will, with frozen pay, slashed services and sackings.

"Unlike the grey suits of the big four, the SSP tells it like it is without spin. Our message is simple - the rich must pay.

"Our Scottish Service Tax can both sweep away the unfair council tax and raise £1.5 billion to halt the cuts and protect jobs and services.

"Along with tough action to crack down on tax dodging by the rich, we will ensure that those whose greed caused the problems are made to pay the bill - not workers, pensioners, youth and the unemployed."

## THINGS LOOKING UP FOR THE SSP

by Colin Fox

**TWO** opinion polls published over last weekend suggest an extraordinary 30 per cent of the electorate have not yet made up their minds how they will vote on 5 May. This tantalizing statistic shows SSP activists and indeed everyone else there is much still to play for in this election.

If there has been one issue uppermost in this election its been the cuts all 4 establishment parties intend to inflict on working people over the next 4 years.

Our street stalls here in Edinburgh for the past two weeks have been focused on abolishing the Council tax and releasing the £1.5 billion extra funding our income based alternative produces. Campaigning on Princes Street we proclaim "It's not freezing the Council tax we need it is its abolition", and this message has met with huge support as hundreds of shoppers signed our petition in agreement.

Like other SSP candidates we have participated in several hustings. At one in Restalrig last week a middle aged woman asked panelists: "What have you guys ever done for me?"

"That's a perfectly fair question" I responded, before adding, "and since no one else on the panel or in the media is likely to remind you of these facts, I welcome the chance to point out it was the SSP who got



rid of Poindings and Warrant Sales. It was the SSP that pioneered the abolition of prescription charges. It was the SSP who insisted on free school meals for youngsters. It was and remains the SSP in the vanguard of opposition to the council tax. And what's more important you know in your heart of heart that unlike the other parties who promise you one thing before an election and do the opposite after it, the SSP represents no one else but working class people like you."

Encouragingly the woman nodded and then admitted to finding us on Princes Street on Saturday afternoons. We have been

there for the past four years campaigning on important issues such as Britain's occupation of Afghanistan, against exorbitant fuel bills and to stop the LibDem/SNP city council closing 25 schools in the city.

We have just over a week to remind people they are electing MSP's on 5 May who will either make cuts or fight cuts. That's how important it is.

SSP activists in the Lothians are buoyed up by the increased support for the party. We are confident this will be reflected in our vote on 5 May. We aim to tap into that increased support and build up the party's base in the area.

# SSP out on the campaign trail

SSP members and supporters in the South of Scotland have shown energy and enthusiasm in getting the socialist message across in recent weeks, bringing back into activity supporters not seen for some years.

Star of the show is list candidate and young activist Aidan Simpson from East Lothian, who took on Labour leader Iain Gray, SNP Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill, and top Tory Derek Brownlee as well as a LibDem at a hustings event at his old school, Musselburgh Grammar.

Having won the support of pupils to head off an attempt to exclude him from the platform, Aidan drew applause on many points of debate including his robust response on Education cuts, pointing out

that the SNP and Labour were only opposed to tuition fees because of the activism of students.

Elsewhere a successful fringe meeting was held at the STUC conference in Ayr where delegates heard top of the list

candidate Colin Turbett speak on how SSP MSPs in the Scottish parliament could aid the struggle against cuts and fight for policies that would turn the tide against increasing inequality.

A few days later Colin debated with Greens, SNP, Tories, Labour and Solidarity at a PCS/FBU organised hustings event in Dumfries. Street activity has taken place across the region from East Lothian to Dumfries, Ayr and Kilmarnock, with hundreds of SSP bulletins handed out to passers-by.

Local media have been flooded with letters and press releases and some have hit home and broken through the barrier to coverage, with stories appearing in East Lothian, Dumfries, Kilmarnock and elsewhere.

SSP candidates have commented on a myriad of local issues - from the pay freeze deal over jobs in Borders Council, to the loss of over 200 building jobs with the demise of R&D Construction in Dumfries.

# A WORKERS MSP ON A WORKERS WAGE!



AS the cuts bite, pay is frozen and food and fuel prices soar, can an MSP paid over £1,000 a week have any idea about the pressures that people are facing?

The SSP says no they can't and it's why our MSPs in the past and candidates now are pledged to live on a skilled workers wage.

Even the most saintly highly paid MSP - and we all know of politicians who have been less than saintly - is bound to lose touch with everyday reality.

The SSP exists to challenge the greed and inequality which sees fat cats paid millions in bonuses as the rest of us face growing pressure on our living standards.

Politicians who say they will not or cannot live on the kind of income most people get are never going to have to wrestle with the realities of low pay, cuts and soaring prices which faces those who they want to vote for them.

Earning a worker's wage is vital to keep MSPs in the same world as voters, facing the same pressures to pay the bills as everybody else.

Any SSP MSP will not become a fat cat on your money.

Jim Bollan, SSP councillor and Regional List candidate in the West of Scotland region says:

"MSPs are in the top 3 per cent of UK earners, how can they represent low paid workers, pensioners and people living on the breadline?"

"How can they possibly understand what life is like for millions of Scots?"

Surely a question for those who would seek election, and then take a wage which most people can only dream about.

## FOR AN INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST SCOTLAND

**THE SSP supports the call for a referendum on Scotland's future and we will fight for a yes vote on independence.**

**We challenge the pro-Union parties to explain why, if they are so confident that they represent the majority of the Scottish people, they continue to deny the Scottish people the right of self-determination in a democratic referendum.**

**Our call is for a Scottish socialist republic, in which the people are sovereign, not some descendant of the house of Saxe-Coburg, and not the multinationals who like to squat on our shores till the government subsidies run out.**

# SCRAP THE COUNCIL TAX

AS the Scottish Parliament elections loom its make your mind up time - tax the rich or slash jobs and services.

That's the real choice in this election.

Look after the millionaires like Brian Soutar, or protect the jobs and service that millions of people rely on.

The SSP – unlike the big parties - bluntly says that the rich must pay.

Our Scottish Service Tax can sweep away the Council Tax, save money for over 70 per cent of Scots and provide an EXTRA £1.5billion to pay for vital services and jobs.

The big parties are running scared off power of the rich, but the SSP says your vote can make a real change and make them pay.

The idea of a redistributive local tax system to replace the Council Tax was first raised in the founding 16-point programme of the SSP back in late 1998.

Over the next few years, the detail of the policy was refined by economists from Paisley University Business School. Based on the principle of progressive taxation, the Scottish Service Tax proposed a rising scale of tax bands based on income.

Under the latest version of the plan, all individual income would be taxed at the following rates:

<b>Under £10,000</b>	<b>– zero.</b>
<b>£10k-£30,000</b>	<b>– 4.5 per cent.</b>
<b>£30k-£50,000</b>	<b>– 10 per cent.</b>
<b>£50k-£70,000</b>	<b>– 15 per cent.</b>
<b>£70k-£100k</b>	<b>– 18 per cent.</b>
<b>Over £100,000</b>	<b>– 20 per cent.</b>

In concrete terms, an individual earning £25,000 would pay an annual bill of £675 in Scottish Service Tax. This is because the first £10,000 of their income would be exempt, and the remaining income would be taxed at 4.5 per cent.

Someone on £32,000 would pay a total bill of £1,100. The



first £10,000 of their income would be exempt; the next £20,000 would be taxed at £900; the final £2,000 would be taxed at £200 (i.e. 10 per cent).

With the SST we really are “all in it together” with those earning most paying most.

And when this system raises an EXTRA £1.5billion for jobs and services it is a clear alternative to the looming cuts in vital services.

The SNP are just the latest party to take cold feet and ditch their local tax plans, in fear of their wealthy backers, but the SSP is 100 per cent behind the demand scrap the Council Tax, tax the rich, top the cuts.



## Join the Scottish Socialist Party

Fill in this form and send to: SSP, Suite 370, 4th Floor, 93 Hope St, Glasgow, G2 6LD

Or see our website:

[scottishsocialistparty.org](http://scottishsocialistparty.org)

Or telephone us:

0141 221 7470

- I would like to join the Scottish Socialist Party
- I would also like to join Scottish Socialist Youth
- I would like more information on the Scottish Socialist Party

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